as on 31st March of the years are given below:

As on 31st March of	Amount (Rs. crores)	Percentage to total advances
1995	25114.50	19.98
1996	28366.04	19.52
1997	29209.27	19.05

(Data is maintained financial year wise)

(b) A credit facility becomes NPA if interest/instalment remained unpaid for two quarters. All NPAs are not necessari ly bad debts or losses. NPAs reflect mainly on the quality and health of the asset portfolio of the banks at the time of classifiction of assets. NPAs affect returns and viability of banks. For example, if a bank has an NPA of 20% it means that the bank is earning returns only on the remaining 80% of its assets portfolio. Secondly, the bank has to make provi sions for non-performing assets depend ing on the period since when an asset has become non-performing and the availabil ity of the security. Thirdly, banks having high NPAs have to considerably streng then their debt recovery process and start more prudent deployment of funds. The profit of the bank is reduced to the extent provisions have to be made for NPAs.

(c) Some of the relatively weaker pub lic sector banks have prepared strategic revival plans/action* plans and detailed steps contemplated by them to improve performance. These steps include reduc tion of NPAs, arresting generation of fresh NPAs, reducing cost of deposits, closure/merger of loss making branches, recruitment limited to specialised cadres, technological upgradation, longer work ing hours, containment of allowances etc. Some of the steps taken by the Govern ment for recovery of NPAs and avoiding recurrence of such NPAs are as under:

(i) All public sector banks have documents of loan recovery policy prepared and duly vetted by Board of Directors.

(ii) Banks have been advised to reduce their NPAs through negotiated settlements to ensure minimum recovery at minimum expenses. However, in this regard precaution is to be taken while arriving at compromising level which has also been laid down.

(iii) Recovery Cells have been set up at Head Office under a General Manager and branch wise targets have been set up by banks. Performance of branches in recovery is monitored by Head Office on monthly basis and Board of Directors are kept informed of the progress on quarterly basis.

(iv) Debt Recovery Tribunals at Calcutta, Delhi, Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Chennai, Guwahati, Jaipur, Patna and Jabalpur and Appellate Tribunal in Mumbai have been set up to assist speedy recoveries of banks dues.

(v) Compilation and circulation of list of defaulters/suit filed accounts of Rs. 1 crore and above to all banks and Financial Institutions.

(d) Top 300 NPAs of the public sector banks are reviewed by the respective Boards with special reference to the system prevailing in the bank and the Boards also look into the staff accountability aspect of these cases. Staff accountability is also looked into by the inspecting officers of RBI/bank at time of in-spection.

Aid/Loan/Grants Received by the Country

1399. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: WiU the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of external aid/loan/ grant received by the country during the last three years and the amount spent in repayment of capital and interest during the same period year-wise; and

(b) the details of the direct foreign investment (actual) received during the same period in the country and the in-

vestment made by Government/other countries during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) The year-wise amount of External Assistance received by the country during the last three years, and the amount spent in repayment of capital and interest in the same period, year-wise are as follows:

(Rs. in crorc)

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (Provisional)
Reeeipo	7646.07	8966.47	7545.92
Government Loan Grants Non-Government Loan	1063.56 2312.49	1085.60 1926.42	914.42 3245.85
	11022.12	11978.49	11706.19
Repayments	6441.04	6547.31	6769.07
Government Loan Non-Government Loan	1125.10	522.51	784.75
	7566.14	7069.82	7553.82
Interest	4414.23	4223.40	4094.66
Government Loan Non-Government Loan	568.31	647.02	675.70
	4982.54	4870.42	4770.36

(b) The direct foreign investment (actual) received during 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 was US $ 2133 million, US $ 2696 million and US £3197 million, respectively. Government of India has not made any investment abroad.

Shortage of Coins and Currency Notes

1400. SHRI RAGHAVJI:
SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government arc aware of the acute shortage of coins and notes of Rupee one, two and five denominations in the country;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to overcome the problem;

(c) by when the normal conditions arc expected; and

(d) the reasons for this shortage?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA): (a) to (d) There has been a shortage of smaller denomination loins and notes of Rupee 1, 2 and 5 in the country. The currency notes of Rupee 1, 2 and 5 have been coinised with a view to increasing production of higher denomination notes. The Government Mints at Mumbai, Calcutta and Hyderabad arc very old and have not been able to cope with the demand for coins. The Governnmcnt has taken steps to modernise the Mints and the new machines will become operational by the end of the year. The production and supply of coins would substantially improve thereafter. With a view to improving availability of coins immediately, the